

The Book of Joel

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Why this Book Now

Why did I choose to go to the Book of Joel after the completion of our study in 1 Corinthians, well simple because the Lord spoke to me to do so; but I can see why, as this Book is the perfect Book to step into after we studied that closing charge of Paul in 16:13-14, to watch, to stand, to act like men, and to be courageous. And concerning "watch", the Book of Joel is all about watching and preparing for the "Day of the Lord".
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NKJV) 13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done with love.

Words say Get Ready – Day of the Lord

The Book is loaded with words such as, hear, awake, blow the trumpet, sound the alarm, proclaim, and prepare – all in the context of “The Day of the Lord”.

The Day of the Lord

The Day of the Lord is a period (not just one day), and it is the period that spans from the Tribulation through the end Millennial Kingdom. It is when God intervenes directly in the affairs of humanity. We read the severity of His dealing with a Christ rejecting world in Revelation chapters 6-19, and His righteous reign on earth in Revelation 20. So severe will be His hand and judgment during the Tribulation period, people will wish they would die, but they will not.

Revelation 6:12-17 (NKJV) ¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Called out 5 Times

The Day of the Lord is called out five times in this three chapter Book, and just reading those five verses should awake us all, perk up our ears, pierce our hearts, grab the trumpet, sound the alarm, to proclaim and prepare for His coming.

*Joel 1:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ Alas for the day! **For the day of the LORD is at hand**; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.*

*Joel 2:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. **For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible**; Who can endure it?*

*Joel 2:31 (NKJV) ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, **Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.***

*Joel 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! **For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.***

*Joel 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ **And it will come to pass in that day** That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD And water the Valley of Acacias.*

Purpose

So, the prophet’s purpose was to warn the nation to repent in the light of approaching judgment, as well as to stir up the faithful among the people to believe the promises of God involving coming salvation and the destruction of the enemies of God’s kingdom.

Wow way too Heavy for a Sunday

Maybe you are saying wow this is way too heavy for a Sunday, and my answer would be, give ear to the Word of the Lord, and you will hear things beyond your common understanding, and you will see and experience the Lord is a way like never before, as you will see and hear all you who call Him Savior, his mighty love and heart for you and the lost. You will hear one of the greatest promises in all the Bible (what Peter spoke of on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2), a promise for you today, a promise of His Spirit poured out upon you (but that will have to wait until next week), but for this chapter one, you have to see first why you need this power, for God wants to prepare the vessel, before pouring in the power, so we say “Oh Lord I need this power, please pour it out upon me, for my sake, for my family’s sake, for the world’s sake”.

Joel 2:28–29 (NKJV) ²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Chapter 1

Joel 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

Name

Joel – his name means “Jehovah is God”

How Know a Prophet

How did Joel know he was a prophet, that he had a message from the Lord? He knew because it burned in his heart, read the beginning of other prophets and they would say they had a burden, a burden they had to share. I am praying God will raise up prophets here within this very room as we study this book. I pray as you study this book, ponder the Word of God, that the message will be burdened upon your heart,, and you will have no other recourse except to share it with the people around you, and that it will affect the way you live your life daily, that it will put priorities in their proper order, and that you will have a joy unspeakable to know that you are His, and He is yours.

The Person’s whole Being

Joel - Jehovah is God, and that is where a prophet needs to begin with, the heart that my whole being, my name speaks my heart, and my heart says Jehovah is God, and I live for Him wholly.

Date

We can’t really tell when this Book was written; usually there are signs to give us an indication such as mentioning of Kings who were on the throne, or nations that were in power, and thus we can look at history and determine the year of a book, but not in this case. The range appears to be somewhere between 900-400BC; and that is a huge difference. Why is it not clarified for us, because the book is meant to have a timeless application, and the main point is about a future event was yet to happen from the time of the writing, and we will see that the future event is what is known as “The Day of the Lord”.

Amos 1:2 quotes Joel 3:16 or vice-versa; Amos 9:13 quotes Joel 3:18 or vice-versa; Isaiah 13:6 quotes Joel 1:15 or vice-versa.

Spent 2 Hours / Not Everything Meant to be Perfectly Clear / Have all Info we Need

I spent a couple hours trying to decipher when this Book was written, and it was time well spent because God made the point real clear to me that if He wanted to make it clear, He would have. Here is a good point for all of us, and that is the Word of God gives us all the information we need, all the information that is intended for us, there is nothing lacking, and if it is not there, it is meant to not be there. Lots of people get wrapped up trying to decipher and build a theology on something that just isn't there, it is meant not to be there,, it is by the Author's design. The 5 Point Calvinist and the 5 Point Armenians exist because there are two groups trying to make something be there that God has not intended to be there.

Because not Specific – It is Timeless / Personal Application Today

Because it is designed to not tell the time, it makes the Book timeless, therefore for any generation reading it, it for today! It is a Book that has meaning and personal application, right now in their day and their set of circumstances

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Yesterday – Today - Tomorrow

The time is not clear so the book stays timeless. Chapter one is historical, an actual event that was happening in the land of Israel. But chapter two and three are yet future, and thus prophetic. Chapter one and the historical events paint a picture, is a prelude, to a yet future coming event. How fitting to me as an eternal Book speaks clearly of the Eternal God, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV) ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Joel 1:2 Hear this, you elders, And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, Or even in the days of your fathers?

The Intensity is Increasing / Almost seems Normal

Oh all these things have happened in the past, but not to this intensity. Matthew 24 people can say has been happening for the history of man, yes that is so, but never at this intensity. Natural disasters will happen at such a high frequency, it will no longer seem out-of-the-ordinary, but seem like everyday life.

Matthew 24:4-7 (NKJV) 4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places.

Recap 2011 Events (Just through November 6th)

- Earthquake magnitude 6.9 Argentina-January 1
- Earthquake magnitude 5.2 - Southern XinJiang, China-January 1
- Earthquake 7.1 magnitude Chile-January 2
- More Than 1,000 Dead Birds Fall From Sky in Arkansas-January 2
- Dead fish cover 20-mile section of Arkansas River-January 2
- Uganda yellow fever outbreak kills more than 40-January 3

- Earthquake Near Japan Triggers Tsunami Warning-January 3
- Powerful earthquake hits south-east Iran-January 3
- Earthquake 7.0 magnitude hits northern Argentina-January 3
- Hundreds of dead blackbirds found in Louisiana-January 3
- 10,000s of Birds found dead in Manitoba-January 3
- Thousands of Birds fall from the sky in South America-January 3
- Major Flood in Rockhampto,Australia-January 3
- Dead Birds Found In Kentucky-January 4
- 100 tons of dead fish wash up on Brazil's shores-January 4
- Hundreds of dead birds found in East Texas-January 5
- Dead birds in Sweden, millions of dead fish in Maryland, Brazil and New Zealand-January 5
- Shift of Earth's magnetic north pole affects Tampa airport-January 5
- 40,000 crabs found dead on England beaches-January 6
- Heavy floods leave at least 35 dead in Brazil-January 6
- Earthquake 4.5 magnitude in California-January 12
- Huge Waves Destroy Homes in E. Indonesia-January 12
- Thousands of marine animals found dead in MATO GROSSO DO SUL/AMAZON Region-February 4
- Magnitude 6.3 earthquake- SOUTH ISLAND OF NEW ZEALAND-February 21
- Thousands of dead fish have washed up at Sebastian Inlet State Park Florida-February
- Millions of small fish including anchovies, sardines and mackerel were found dead at King Harbour area at Redondo Beach, California-March
- Magnitude 8.9 earthquake and tsunami devastating Japan-March 11
- 40ft section of California Highway falls into Pacific Ocean-March 16
- Magnitude 3.5 earthquake - OFFSHORE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA-March 17
- Magnitude 6.5 earthquake- Vanuatu- March 17
- Magnitude 7.0 earthquake strikes northeastern Burma-March 23
- Magnitude 6.8 earthquake hits Myanmar, Thailand-March 23
- Magnitude 6.4 earthquake off the coast of Japan-March 25
- Thousands of dead fish wash up in Florida-March 25
- Hundreds of dead fish found in Midland,Texas-March 26
- Hundreds of dead fish and frogs in Marquette Lagoon-April 1
- Magnitude 5.4 earthquake in South Sandwich Islands Region-April 1
- Magnitude 6.4 earthquake Fiji-April 3
- Magnitude 6.7 earthquake in South of Java,Indonesia-April 3
- Magnitude 6.5 earthquake hits Veracruz,Mexico-April 7
- Dead birds fall into Kansas yard-April 8
- Magnitude 7.4 earthquake hits shore of Japan-April 7
- Dead fish found in Cedar Creek, Texas-April 10
- Magnitude 6.5 and 6.2 earthquakes hit eastern Japan-April 11
- Dead fish float up in 36 lakes in the state of Connecticut-April
- Deadly Tornadoes hit N. Carolina and Virginia, at least 47 dead-April 16
- Thousands of dead fish are hauled away in Lakeside,NY-April 27
- A massive thunderstorm front spawned 137 tornadoes, killed at least 180 people, and mangled sections of Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Huntsville, Alabama-April
- Dead fish wash up in San Tan Heights pond-May
- Deadly Tornado hits Albany, New Zealand, at least 1 death-May 3
- Major Mississippi flooding, destroys many homes-May
- Dead fish found in Valsad district of south Gujarat-May 3,4
- 6.5 Magnitude Earthquake hits Papua New Guinea, Tsunami warning-May 15
- Iceland's Grimsvotn Volcano erupts, followed by small earthquakes-May 21
- Deadly Tornadoes hit Minneapolis and Missouri-May 22
- Deadly Tornadoes hits Oklahoma City-May 24
- Chedeng exits Philippines, leaves 3 dead-May 28

- 800 tons of dead fish float ashore in Philippine fish farms-May 29
- At least 10,000 metric tons of fish dead in Bolinao and Anda waters in Pangasinan-May 31
- Deadly tornado hits Springfield, Massachusetts-June 1
- Dead fish found in Ogeechee River-June 3
- Dead fish wash up in Bulacan and Ilocos Sur-June 4
- Volcano erupts in Chile for the first time in 50 years-June 6
- Massive wildfires in Arizona,claimed more than 30 homes-June 8
- 6.0, 5.5 and 4.4 Magnitude Earthquakes hit Christchurch,NZ-June 11,12
- Hundreds of dead fish float up in Delco Lake,Creek-June 15
- Buildings,trees and mountains miraculously appear in a China lake (no explanation)-June 17
- 40 Tornadoes rip through Nebraska,Kansas-June 21
- 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake hits Fox Islands,Aleutian Islands,Alaska-June 24
- Massive dust storm hits Pheonix-July 5
- 7.8 Magnitude Earthquake hits New Zealand-July 7
- 7.3 Magnitude Earthquake hits northeastern Japan-July 9
- 6.2 Magnitude Earthquake hits Philippines-July 11
- Hundreds of fish found dead in lake in Kuantan-August 9
- A ton of dead fish found in River Segura-August 9
- Large number of fish found dead in Central China River-August 12
- 5.3 earthquake hits Colorado-August 22
- 5.9 earthquake hits Virginia, jolts NY and Carolinas-August 23
- Hurricane Irene hits SC,NC,VA-August 26,27
- Deadly Typhoon hits Taiwan and China-August 29
- 6.8 Magnitude Earthquake hits Alaska-September 2
- 6.7 Magnitude Earthquake hits Argentina-September 2
- 7.0 Magnitude Earthquake hits Vanuatu-September 3
- 6.6 Magnitude Earthquake hits Northern Sumatra, Indonesia-September 5
- 6.4 Magnitude Earthquake hits Vancouver-September 9
- Floods in Pennsylvania-September 10
- Texas Fire destroys 1,554 homes, 17 people missing-September 11
- Magnitude 6.8 Earthquake hits Northeastern India-September 18
- Tornado hits Siloam Springs, AR-September 18
- Deadly Typhoon hits Philippines-September 27
- Magnitude 5.0 Earthquake hits Aisen, Chile-October 7
- Magnitude 4.0 Earthquake hits Death Valley-October 7
- Magnitude 6.7 Earthquake hits Papua New Guinea-October 14
- Magnitude 5.9 Earthquake hits Amurskaya Oblast, Russia-October 14
- Magnitude 5.4 Earthquake hits Simeulue, Indonesia-October 16
- Heavy rains kill at least 84 in Central America-October 18
- Magnitude 5.3 Earthquake hits north of Tristan da Cunha-October 19
- Magnitude 5.3 Earthquake hits Palau Region-October 23
- Magnitude 5.1, 5.6, 6.0, 4.9, 7.2 Earthquake's hit Eastern Turkey (what a hit they took!)-October 23
- Magnitude 6.0 Earthquake hits Fiji Region-October 27
- Massive Flood hits Bangkok-October 27
- Magnitude 6.9 Earthquake hits Peru-October 28
- 5.6 earthquake hits Oklahoma - Nov 6

Tachos

In Revelation 1 speaking of the End Times, the word there for shortly in the Greek is “tachos”, it is where we get our word tachometer. It is the “rpm”, revolutions per minute of the engine. The higher the rpm’s, the faster the engine is turning, and there is a point

where you will hit redline and be turning your engine so fast it will blow. Same application here, we will see signs about us, a little at first, and then more, and more, and more, so much so that we will hit the redline. Precious people the tachometer is pegging, look at the signs around us. Natural disasters increasing in frequency, the revived Roman Empire before our very eyes, the Mark of the Beast, the One World Economy, One World Religion, and the rebirth of the Nation Israel. I am excited, the engine is about to blow.

(Revelation 1:1 NKJV) The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants; things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

Shock to Me / But for Kids – All they know – Seems Normal

All this is a shock to us, who have lived a generation, but to this current generation, our youth, this is all they know, it seems normal to them.

Joel 1:3 Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation.

Youth – for you Today

Not just for the adults, but the children. Oh that the youth would hear the word of the Lord and see that it is for them, today, not when they become adults, but they start to live it today!

Joel 1:4 What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten.

OKJV Version

Joel 1:4 (KJV 1900) ⁴ That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; And that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; And that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.

4 Stages of Locust

Now these are thought to represent the four stages of a locust development. The Hebrew words are,

- The palmerworm, is from the Hebrew word, “gazam”, which means to gnaw off.
- “The locust hath eaten”, that’s the, “arbeh”, which means, many or multitude.
- “That which the locust hath left, the cankerworm”, and the cankerworm is the Hebrew word, “yeleq”, which is to, lick off. Yeleq, you can almost hear it can’t you? Yelek, to lick off.
- The word caterpillar is the Hebrew word, “chaciy!” , which is, to devour.

The locust in its four stages, as it is developing. To gnaw off the multitude of the locusts. Then, as they develop their wings, they move and they begin to fly to other areas. Then they come in, and they begin to lick off, and then to devour everything that is green. Stripping even the bark off of the tree.

After Months of Labor – Destroyed in 1 Week

Verse 4 - we see utter destruction of their harvest crop. After months of plowing, seeding, watering, tilling - one swarm in one week and they are wiped out.

Joel 1:5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth.

Vines wiped Out / God will take away that which Distracts / Scary if Not

Verse 5 - as the vines were wiped out, there would be an instant withdrawal art for the wine drinkers, because the wine vats would not be replenished. God in His love for a person will allow the thing that separates them from Him to be destroyed. That thing that is distracting a person from Him, He in His love will allow it to be destroyed. The fearful part for anyone who calls Him Lord is that the thing they know separates and distracts, the God hasn't destroyed it. For judgment begins in the house of the Lord, with those who live in the house of God, for those who call Him Father.

1 Peter 4:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

God's Word is for the Sinner – to call them Back

God's word is for the sinner, it will awake all who will hear it, receive it, and live it!

The OT speaks Historically – Speaks Today AWAKE

Remind you, this is an OT book, that speaks historically yes, but it speaks prophetically to today! The call to awake, is a word for then, and a word for today.

People in Sin – Claim Love / But never speak of His Holiness

No time more in 2,000 years of the Gospel, is the Gospel being “readjusted” to excuse the lifestyles of the sinner (saved or unsaved). Here is something I have noticed, and that is that people in sin always claim and cry out all about God is love, God is grace, God is merciful – but if you will notice, one thing you will never hear in those statements from that person, is them saying God is Holy! That part is always left out, that part is always absent from thier speech. Revelation 4 says that in heaven (right now as we speak), for night and day, continually lifted up before the throne, are the words “holy, holy, holy”. Not love, love, love; nor grace, grace, grace, not mercy, mercy, mercy; but holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Revelation 4:8–11 (NKJV) 8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” 9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: 11 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

First Mention of Grace – Mercy (righteous – perverse world) / Holy - Love

First mention of grace in the Bible is in reference to Noah. First mention of mercy in the Bible is in reference to Lot in the destruction of Sodom. How interesting to me, regarding grace and mercy, it was given to two men who are called righteous men in the Bible; two men living righteously in a perverse world. And, let the scriptures speak, as we see the first mention of “holy” in the Bible is when Moses came into the presence of the Lord there on mountain in Horeb. The first mention of love in the Bible is Abraham sacrificing Isaac (which is a picture of 2,000 years later the exact spot that God the Father

would sacrifice Jesus for the sins of the world). God making us righteous so that we may come into the presence of the Holy God, and then giving us the power to live righteously in a perverse world.

Genesis 6:8 (NKJV) 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Genesis 19:16 (NKJV) 16 And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife's hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

2 Peter 2:4-8 (NKJV) 4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; 5 and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)—

Exodus 3:5 (NKJV) 5 Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

Genesis 22:2 (NKJV) 2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

John 8 – Perfect balance of Grace & Holiness

John 8:11 is the perfect picture, the theological picture, of the perfect balance of ‘grace and holiness’, neither do I condemn you (forgiveness) – go and sin no more (holiness).

John 8:10-11 (NKJV) 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Joel 1:6 For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.

Joel 1:7 He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white.

National Geographic

Verse 6 - According to National Geographic A locust swarm can be up to 450 square miles. It can pack between 40 to 80 million locust. A locust can go from hatching to adulthood and the ability to reproduce in 42 days, thus we can see how they swarm can grow so large. The adult locust is about 2.5 inches.

Looks like Snow / Not a Winter Wonderland

Verse 7 - Its branches are made white - After the locust chew everything up, the remaining dust is white, and it is said that the ground looks as if fresh snow has just fallen. But after months of plowing and tilling, sweating and working, now one would think it was a winter wonderland.

Joel 1:8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the husband of her youth.

Joel 1:9 The grain offering and the drink offering Have been cut off from the house of the LORD; The priests mourn, who minister to the LORD.

Joel 1:10 The field is wasted, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine is dried up, The oil fails.

Joel 1:11 Be ashamed, you farmers, Wail, you vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field has perished.

Africa – 120,000

It was recorded in Africa during a locust swarm that in one day the locust ate the amount of grain that 120,000 people would eat in a whole year.

Look at all is Lost / Vine and Grain

Verse 7-10; Look at all that is lost, the vine harvest (which would be grapes, dates, and figs), and the grain harvest (which would be barley, wheat, and corn). Looking out on all that was lost, they would weep, they would wail, they would mourn, for all has been wiped out.

Youth and Alcohol / Make a Drink Offering

Can I sidebar here before going on. Verse 9 says no vine, no grapes, no wine, means no drink offering. The drink offering was part of the sacrificial system at the Temple, but even before that was established we saw Jacob after meeting the Lord, and he calling the place “bethel” which means “house of God”, and there Jacob made a drink offering to the Lord. He says Lord I pour this out before you as an act of love, Lord I don’t have anything to give You, but I’ll give you what is in my hand, and it is this drink (wine) and in love I give it to you. Youth, alcohol is rampant now in your school and neighborhood, and I know the temptations that are presented to you, but oh I challenge you to pour it out before the Lord, and say Lord I pour this out from my life, and I want to wholly follow you and not be under its influence, I want to be set apart for you, just as Daniel was. Do it and God will meet you right there, in a mighty way, overpowering the peer pressure, and giving you the ability to walk away. But you need to pour it out first, for God will not violate your freewill

Genesis 35:13–15 (KJV 1900) ¹³ And God went up from him in the place where he talked with him. ¹⁴ And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon. ¹⁵ And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Beth-el.

Exodus 29:40 (KJV 1900) ⁴⁰ And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering.

*Center of Disease Control; The 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*⁵ found that among high school students, during the past 30 days

- 42% drank some amount of alcohol.
- 24% binge drank.
- 10% drove after drinking alcohol.
- 28% rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol.

Alcohol use by persons under age 21 years is a major public health problem.1 Alcohol is the most commonly used and abused drug among youth in the United States, more than tobacco and illicit drugs. Although drinking by persons under the age of 21 is illegal, people aged 12 to 20 years drink 11% of all alcohol consumed in the United States.2 More than 90% of this alcohol is consumed in the form of binge drinks.2 On average, underage drinkers consume more drinks per drinking occasion than adult drinkers.3 In 2008, there were approximately 190,000 emergency rooms visits by persons under age 21 for injuries and other conditions linked to alcohol.

Joel 1:12 The vine has dried up, And the fig tree has withered; The pomegranate tree, The palm tree also, And the apple tree— All the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

Destroyed – Personal Food and Food to Trade

Verse 12 - Destroyed were the figs (which would be dried out and stored for future food consumption), pomegranates (which in ancient Egypt was a sign of prosperity), palm

(which is where oil and balm came from), and apples (a fruit loaded with vitamin and minerals). These food crops were not just for their personal consumption, but they were their most traded crop with other nations all around the world. They would sell and trade in order to receive goods and produce that were not available in their region.

Just one event can Destroy a lifetime of Prosperity / Look at the USA today

Verse 12 - one event can devastate our total prosperity. Today or economy is totally a world economy. It only takes bad mortgages in the USA to cause economic impart in Europe, and China. Speaking of the cost of natural disasters, the year 2011 has been the costliest year to the USA in all the years, and we have had some big years considering some hurricanes and their impacts. But what we see today is a sum total of many, surpassing the cost of a couple big ones.

The first six months saw \$265 billion in economic losses, well above the previous record of \$220 billion (adjusted for inflation) set for all of 2005 (the year Hurricane Katrina struck), according to Munich Re, a multinational that insures insurance companies.

Joel 1:13 Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of your God.

Joel :14 Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

Joel 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty

No Religious System / All is Swept Away / Have Nothing see All that is Needed

With no grains to sacrifice (and that would include the animals we will see later in the chapter), then there would be no sacrifices made at the temple. What we see here is the end of the religious system as it was established. When all is swept out of a person's life, when trials and tribulations are all that is left, then man and his religious rituals and activities can be swept away as well, and all that is left, is a man or a woman coming before the Holy God, with empty hands, a broken heart, and crying out before Him, Lord I am nothing, I have nothing, I am in complete need of You to do something in me right here and right now. In prosperity or popularity, Christianity can just be a ritual, some activity that is scheduled to happen on Sunday mornings at a certain time, and then back to the works of our own hands, the thoughts of our own heart, the pleasing of our own way, - but oh the place to be when you have nothing, because it is there that you will find it All, because you will come back to the simple place and relationship with your Lord and Creator. But why must a person or a Nation wait until they have nothing, why not start with all this is nothing, if I have not You Lord.

Joel 2:12-13 (NKJV) 12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

The Days

The "Days" as mentioned in the Bible:

- **Day of Man** (Gen 2:15 / Matthew 4:8-9) – from the Fall until the Rapture

- **Day of Christ** (1 Cor 1:8 / Phil 1:6) – Is about the Saints; it starts and the rapture and includes the Marriage Supper of the Lamb)
- **Day of the Lord** (1 Thess 5:2 / Joel 1-3 / 2 Peter 3:10) – from the Tribulation through the Millennial Kingdom)
- **Day of God** (2 Peter 3:12) – Begins after Millennial Kingdom and all of Eternity.

Genesis 2:15 (NKJV) 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

Matthew 4:8-9 (NKJV) 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."

1 Corinthians 1:8 (NKJV) 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

1 Thessalonians 5:2 (NKJV) 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

2 Peter 3:10 (NKJV) 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Verse 14 – God’s word on how we Respond

Verse 14- Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD - is God’s response to us today to such a dreadful day that is coming upon our world. Why and how us, because today we are the priesthood, and thus this calling in verse 14 is for us, a duty, a requirement, of all in the priesthood. You are the priesthood:

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) 9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

Intercede - Fast

Verse 13-14; the priestly duty. The duty of the priests were to intercede before the Lord, make sacrifice (with fasting and all night prayer), and to gather (rally) the people to join in supplications before the Lord. It is a solemn fast – not only no food, but no work, not internet, not television, just sitting at the Lord’s feet. Would you be willing to do this for your Nation, for your friend or family that doesn’t know the Lord? Now we go from reading, to being called to do something that cost us, requires us to sacrifice our sleep, or recreation, and our bellies. So Christian, what will be your response to this calling?

Joel 1:16 Is not the food cut off before our eyes, Joy and gladness from the house of our God?

Joel 1:17 The seed shrivels under the clods, Storehouses are in shambles; Barns are broken down, For the grain has withered.

Ever see the Shelves at Food Lion before Snow Storm

Ever see the shelves before a snow storm or after a hurricane, now imagine what that would be like after a locust swarm and drought.

Joel 1:18 How the animals groan! The herds of cattle are restless, Because they have no pasture; Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment.

Joel 1:19 O LORD, to You I cry out; For fire has devoured the open pastures, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.

Joel 1:20 The beasts of the field also cry out to You, For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the open pastures.

No Food – Cattle will Perish next

Verse 18 - no food for the cattle meant that was what was next to perish. So lose all the crops, and lose you cattle that you would use for meat and milk.

If Locust not Enough – Droughts and Fire

Verse 19-20: and the locust were not enough, there came a drought along with them, a drought so scorching hot that it started fires. So now the trees that were used to build homes, and materials were being destroyed.

Not Specific why Happening / But in either Case Prayer is the Answer

Chapter one does not specifically point to why this was happening. Was it a National sin, was it them forgetting God and being wrapped up in prosperity, or was it a natural disaster that comes upon the earth as a result of a fallen world? Chapter one does not specifically say, and it doesn't specifically say for a reason. What it does say is to fast, to pray, to cry out to the Lord, and thus I can see and believe that God protects a Nation, as He wills, from natural disasters, and our prayers can turn the tide against such things, and very obviously, we can intercede before the Lord for our Nation when it is transgressing against the Lord, and God will hear and heal the Land.

2 Chronicles 7:12-16 (NKJV) ¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

So our Calling

And that calling for prayer and intercession begins in the house of the Lord, His people, His royal priesthood. So we have our calling.

Dreadful Chapter / Pierce Heart – Grab the trumpet and Sound the Alarm

This dreadful chapter literally and historically happened, but as much and more say, it paints the picture of a still yet future event, that I believe happens in our generation, and it meant to grip pierce our hearts, so we might grab the trumpet, sound the alarm, to proclaim and prepare for His coming.

Nothing Left but Ashes in the Land / Maybe feel your life Ashes / Beauty - Ashes

I don't want to leave you in despair for a whole week until we meet again, for the Lord's word always has hope within it, even when it seem so hopeless. In verses 16-20: there is nothing left of the Land but ashes, but in chapter 2 God says He will restore the years the locust have eaten. And for you today, maybe you feel your life is but ashes, a heap, no hope and no future, God says He will trade beauty for ashes. He will take our ashes, our heaps, our hopelessness, and turn them into pure beauty.

Isaiah 61:1-4 (NKJV) ¹ "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”⁴ And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.

Habakkuk

How do we get there, we see in Habakkuk a powerful application for us today as he asked the question before the Lord, hey what in the world is going on in our land, why are things as they are, why such hardships upon us. God then answers him, and Habakkuk’s response is that he climbs to his place of prayer and fellowships with the Lord. And the end resultant of it all, is that in the end he is standing on the mountain top rejoicing in the Lord. “I was in the valley in chapter 1 and in the tower in chapter 2. Now I’m walking on top of the mountains in chapter 3,” declares Habakkuk. “God, I see that what You’re doing is right and I approve. It’s hard and I don’t always understand, but I trust in You.”

Habakkuk 1:2 (NKJV)² O LORD, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, “Violence!” And You will not save.

Habakkuk 2:1 (NKJV)

¹ I will stand my watch And set myself on the rampart, And watch to see what He will say to me, And what I will answer when I am corrected.

Habakkuk 3:18–19 (NKJV)¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.¹⁹ The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer’s feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills. To the Chief Musician. With my stringed instruments.

Day of the Lord to Jewish People / Reckons from Night to Day

What a wonderful study for us, even in its heaviness, and let me give this last word, the Day of the Lord is first mentioned to the Jewish people - the Jewish people reckon their days to start at night and move to daylight. The Jewish day gets brighter and brighter.

Chapter 2

Why this Book Now

Why did I choose to go to the Book of Joel after the completion of our study in 1 Corinthians, well simple because the Lord spoke to me to do so; but I can see why, as this Book is the perfect Book to step into after we studied that closing charge of Paul in 16:13-14, to watch, to stand, to act like men, and to be courageous. We were told to be watching out for tactics of Satan the roaring lion, and Jesus the Lion of Judah who will be returning soon. We are to watch for ourselves, and we are to be watching out for others so they will not be caught by Satan and be ready themselves for Jesus' soon return. So here Joel discusses that same thing, as he says "watch" and prepare for the "Day of the Lord", for ourselves and for others around us.

1 Corinthians 16:13–14 (NKJV) 13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done with love.

Words say Get Ready – Day of the Lord

The Book is loaded with words such as, hear, awake, blow the trumpet, sound the alarm, proclaim, and prepare – all in the context of “The Day of the Lord”.

The Day of the Lord

The Day of the Lord is a period (not just one day), and it is the period that spans from the Tribulation through the end Millennial Kingdom. It is when God intervenes directly in the affairs of humanity. We read the severity of His dealing with a Christ rejecting world in Revelation chapters 6-19, and His righteous reign on earth in Revelation 20. So severe will be His hand and judgment during the Tribulation period, people will wish they would die, but they will not.

Revelation 6:12–17 (NKJV) 12 I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. 13 And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. 14 Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. 15 And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Called out 5 Times

The Day of the Lord is called out five times in this three chapter Book, and just reading those five verses should awake us all, perk up our ears, pierce our hearts, grab the trumpet, sound the alarm, to proclaim and prepare for His coming.

*Joel 1:15 (NKJV) 5 Alas for the day! **For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.***

*Joel 2:11 (NKJV) 11 The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. **For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?***

*Joel 2:31 (NKJV) 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, **Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.***

*Joel 3:14 (NKJV) 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! **For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.***

*Joel 3:18 (NKJV) 18 **And it will come to pass in that day** That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD And water the Valley of Acacias.*

Outline of the Book of Joel:

1. Day of the Lord - Pictured Painfully (Chp 1) - Yesterday
2. Day of the Lord - Prophesied Powerfully (Chp 2) - Today
3. Day of the Lord - Proclaimed as Promised (Chp 3) - Tomorrow

Purpose

So, the prophet's purpose was to warn the nation to repent in the light of approaching judgment, as well as to stir up the faithful among the people to believe the promises of God involving coming salvation and the destruction of the enemies of God's kingdom.

Can I ask You

Last week chapter one we saw dreadful things, locust swarms, famine and drought in the land, economic, environmental, and spiritual collapse in the land. It was a literal season that happened in Israel, and it is a picture of a yet future event that will happen upon the whole world, and we see it is dreadful, those times will be hell on earth. The culmination will happen in the Tribulation period, but we clearly see the foreshadows of this Great and Dreadful day in our news headline every day; my question to you, how did last week study change your life? Did you seek the Lord and ask Him to check your priorities, did you seek the Lord and pray for your Nation, pray for Israel, pray for your lost loved ones, or did you say that was a bummer of a Bible study? God's heart in every study is to grab your heart, that the Word will change you, stir you up, fire you up, and conform you into His image. God through His word wants to break our hearts of the things that break His heart. Like God did with Abraham, so He does with us, He gives us information of what He is going to do, so we will get involved in His plan – which may require us to depart from our plans, our goals, our desires.

Genesis 18:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. ¹⁷ And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

Joel 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand:

Blow the trumpet, and sound the alarm.....

Joel 2:2 A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.

The Days

The "Days" as mentioned in the Bible:

- **Day of Man** (Gen 2:15 / Matthew 4:8-9) – from the Fall until the Rapture
- **Day of Christ** (1 Cor 1:8 / Phil 1:6) – Is about the Saints; it starts and the rapture and includes the Marriage Supper of the Lamb)
- **Day of the Lord** (1 Thess 5:2 / Joel 1-3 / 2 Peter 3:10) – from the Tribulation through the Millennial Kingdom)
- **Day of God** (2 Peter 3:12) – Begins after Millennial Kingdom and all of Eternity.

Day of Darkness

Verse 2 - The Day of the Lord will be a time of darkness, gloom, clouds so thick that darkness covers the land, a darkness so thick you can feel.

Israel the Time Piece

Most commentaries will say this passage is specifically in reference to Israel, well remember this Church, Israel is the prophetic time piece, if you want to know what time it is in God's prophetic calendar, look at Israel, look at Jerusalem.

I am a Scheduler / Blow the Trumpet – Sound the Alarm

At work, I am a scheduler. Whatever we are making or designing, I get with the engineers and ask them, how does it go together (step by step). Then they start to build it, and I ask them, what step are you on, what have you accomplished to date. At the end of every meeting I can then put a slide up and say, this is where we are, and this is how much we have left to go. Well if I was to put a slide up on where we are in prophetic past and prophetic future, I would be putting a slide up that said blow the trumpet and sound the alarm, for we are in the final steps of the finishing of this project. Israel is back in the land, the revived Roman Empire is near completion, the one world economy just needs to get the chip off the plastic (credit card) and under the skin, the natural disasters are peaking, and war drums are beating so loud the eardrum hurts. What time is it? It is days and hours, no longer centuries and decades away from the Day of the Lord.

Verses 2-17 / Dreadful but not Hopeless / Speaks of Israel – Powerfully You

Verses 2 through 17 - describe a yet future event in Israel, in which resembles the locust of chapter one all over again, but in this case it will speak of locust and armies coming upon the land. It is a dreadful passage again, but not hopeless, because verses 18-32 breakthrough with God's amazing heart and promise for His people whom He loves. It speaks specifically about Israel, and powerfully about His love for us His children.

Black Canvas – Blood Red / This Power is For you

Chapter 1 and through 2:17, God paints the canvas as dark and as black can be, so when He starts applying the brilliant color of red (the blood of Jesus) it jumps off the canvas as speaks to all men and all woman, "I love you, and I am zealous for you". If you feel distant from the Lord lately, I pray this passage rekindles a fire, if you feel you have blown it so badly because you are in a backslidden state or sinful state, may you hear the promise of God that he will restore you all the years the locust has eaten, and for you who are full of passion for the things of the Lord, may the blood red jump off the canvas to say to you – this power, to do my work in these Last Days, is for you – guaranteed and without reserve.

Joel 2:3 A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.

The Army Comes for the Goods – Garden of Eden

The army is coming (from the north verse 20 says), and they are coming because they see a land that resembles the Garden of Eden, good and full of food and wealth. It has just recently been found that off the shores of Israel are some 1.5 to 2 billion barrels of oil, the land of Israel although located in the desert and very arid, through their ingenuity they have turned the land into a rich and fertile ground that is able to produce fresh produce even in the midst of droughts. I wonder if gold is next to be found. In the period where the rest of the world is lacking, they will look on Israel and say, look at all the bounty, let's go take it for ourselves.

Nothing shall Escape

Verse 3 - Surely nothing shall escape them – this army is unstoppable, they destroy and devour everything in their path, and Israel will be utterly destroyed themselves unless God supernaturally intervenes.

Joel 2:4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run.

Joel 2:5 With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array.

Joel 2:6 Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color.

Joel 2:7 They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks.

Joel 2:8 They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down.

Joel 2:9 They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief.

Joel 2:10 The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness.

Joel 2:11 The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. **For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?**

Locust or Armies

The debate is whether the locust mentioned in this chapter are locust described in Revelation 9, or a real army (whether that be the army described in the Magog Invasion of Ezekiel 38-39, or the antichrist coming down to slaughter them at the Mid-Tribulation Point – Revelation 12), and I believe it is the actual locust describe in Revelation, and a real army, because I believe those things are all happening simultaneously. But, to be dogmatically right is not that important, what is important is to see that God is going to supernaturally protect Israel.

Revelation 9:3-6 (NKJV) ³ Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴ They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵ And they were not given authority to kill them, but to torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. ⁶ In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.

Ezekiel 38:10-13 (NKJV) ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord GOD: "On that day it shall come to pass that thoughts will arise in your mind, and you will make an evil plan: ¹¹ You will say, 'I will go up against a land of unwalled villages; I will go to a peaceful people, who dwell safely, all of them dwelling without walls, and having neither bars nor gates'— ¹² to take plunder and to take booty, to stretch out your hand against the waste places that are again inhabited, and against a people gathered from the nations, who have acquired livestock

and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land. ¹³ Sheba, Dedan, the merchants of Tarshish, and all their young lions will say to you, 'Have you come to take plunder? Have you gathered your army to take booty, to carry away silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods, to take great plunder?' ” ’

Revelation 12:13–17 (NKJV) ¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

God Using this to Wake up a Nation

Verse 11 - The LORD gives voice before His army – Notice that this army coming down upon His chosen people is called His army. God is using this evil army for His purposes. He is using it to wake up a sleeping Nation, a Nation that missed their Messiah the first time 2000 years ago, but it will be during this time they will recognize that Jesus is the Messiah, and Jesus is God, the very God that will save and protect them supernaturally.

Purpose of Tribulation

As we study the Tribulation in chapters 6-19, we will see God doing 3 very specific things.

- To Shake-up the Heathen
- To Wake-up a Nation (Israel)
- To Make-up the Kingdom

All Israel will be Saved / But 2/3 will Perish / How about You – Make it Everything

It will be during this time that all of Israel will be saved. But, let it be noted, two-thirds of the people of Israel will die during the Tribulation period. So all of Israel being saved is good news, but sadly for many it will be too late. (*Note: although there will be peace in Israel for the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation, there still will be great famine and pestilence in the whole world*) Now, as tragic as that is for Israel, to have the Savior calling out to them, two-thirds will miss Him, so too is the tragedy that anyone here today can miss the call and the cry of the Savior to them right now, as He says come now while you hear, not tomorrow, for your tomorrow may be cut short. If you do not know Jesus personally, if you are just right now just considering Him or researching Him, then make that consideration and investigation “everything” don’t rest until you have come to the final conclusion – is He God, and can He take away your sins personally?

Romans 11:25–26 (NKJV) ²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

Zechariah 13:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the LORD, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it: ⁹ I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”

Oh Dreadful – Hopeless – Until “Now” (verse 12)

Oh how dreadful and hopeless all seems from chapter one verses one to chapter two verse eleven, until you hear the beautiful word “now” spoken in verse twelve, and God says to them, as He says to us, “Now therefore turn to Me”. Oh the answer to every situation in

your life, good or bad, turn to the Lord and He will do a mighty work in your life. Come and see.....verse 12-17.

Joel 2:12 “Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”

Joel 2:13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Forget Religion / Drive-By Religion

Rend (tear – pierce) your heart, not your clothing as they did in that day as a sign of mourning. God says don’t go through your religious routines and rituals, but come unto Him and meet with Him, slow down to sit with Him, and pour out your heart. Oh with the rush and business of our lives, how much our prayer life and devotion life has become a drive-by religion.

Joel 2:14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him— A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?

Joel 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly;

Joel 2:16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

Joel 2:17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, “Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

The Calling for All

Notice who all is called, the old people, the children, even babies. The call is for now, even if you just got married, which is saying everyone stop what you are doing, and come prayer, by way of fasting.

Read 2:14-17 again

Types of Prophecy:

Predictive – Revealing of something.

- Near Term – the revealing of what or why something is very soon to happening.
- Future – something that is still far off in the future (and often the near-term is a template of the still yet future event).

Didactic – Designed to Teach

What Taught – Our Weapons are Repentance and Prayer

What is God teaching us His saints through this prophecy, that our weapons of war are repentance and prayer. When the world seems to be coming in upon us like a flood, the battle belongs to the Lord, and we join the battle through repentance and prayer.

Isaiah 59:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ So shall they fear The name of the LORD from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him.

God will Restore Our Land

The solution to the woes of chapter one, are called out nearly identically again for the woes of chapter two. God will restore a land, if His people who are called by His name, will repent and call upon Him. God isn't calling the heathen, He is calling the church.

Joel 1:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of your God. ¹⁴ Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

2 Chronicles 7:12–16 (NKJV) ¹² Then the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.

Did I ask You

My question to you, how did last week study change your life? Did you seek the Lord and ask Him to check your priorities, did you seek the Lord and pray for your Nation, pray for Israel, pray for your lost loved ones, or did you say that was a bummer of a Bible study? God's heart in every study is to grab your heart, that the Word will change you, stir you up, fire you up, and conform you into His image. God through His word wants to break our hearts of the things that break His heart.

He will restore the Nation – and the Person

God will restore our land, and He will restore your life personally, as now we move from lamentation to restoration. God will restore Israel back from all the plagues that had come upon them (2:1-17).

Joel 2:18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And pity His people.

How much more for You – His bride

If the Lord is zealous for a land, how much more is He zealous for you, the Bride that He was will to be pierced for.

Matthew 13:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

John 2 – Zeal

I am reminded of Jesus cleansing the Temple of the money-changers, and the disciples then remembered what was written 69:9, that Zeal for Your house has eaten Him up.

You are His Temple now and He is zealous for you. The word zealous means "excitement of mind, jealous for, pursuing, embracing, defending anything, and fervent in mind" Oh precious saint, God is zealous for you! You believed Him for salvation, now believe in the same faith that is how he feels about you!

John 2:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Joel 2:19 The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

Joel 2:20 “But I will remove far from you the northern army, And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, With his face toward the eastern sea And his back toward the western sea; His stench will come up, And his foul odor will rise, Because he has done monstrous things.”

Joel 2:21 Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvelous things!

God will fight for Israel / He is Zealous for You

God fights for Israel, and God will defeat the enemy of Israel. God fights for you! From desolation to restoration, for He is zealous for you!

The Promises to Israel – the Promises to Me / Iran

I wish I had the faith in my life personally that I do for God’s promises to Israel. The history of Israel, 400 years in slavery, two total destruction, deportation into Babylon, and 2,000 years without a homeland, yet they survive. They have survived a total of 36 wars, been reduced to ashes 17 times, but has risen 18 times! And, when this northern army comes down against them, God will preserve them. I am not concerned about Iran’s nuclear program regarding Israel, for they will not destroy Israel. But oh just as God makes His promises to Israel, He makes them to me personally, and just as God has and will keep every promise to and for Israel, so too will He keep and do every promise He has made to me as a son.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Joel 2:22 Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; For the open pastures are springing up, And the tree bears its fruit; The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.

Joel 2:23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.

Joel 2:24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

The Rains / Philippians 4:19

Former rain ... the rain ... the former ... the latter rain—The autumnal, or “former rain,” from the middle of October to the middle of December. God is saying I will be faithful to give you the rains to supply your needs. Just as he says to us in Philippians 4:19.

Latin Vulgate

Here is an interesting note, just for consideration. The Latin Vulgate and American Standard it reads “He will give you a teacher of righteousness”. It reads that because the word “morea” to give out, or to teacher. So the translation could read that God will faithfully give them (Israel) the teacher of righteousness in the last Days, and many rabbis teach that this verse is a prophetic reference to God giving Israel their Messiah.

Joel 2:25 “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

Joel 2:26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.

Joel 2:27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.

Devastation will Pale in Comparison to the Restoration

From devastation to restoration; the devastations’ of the years will pale in comparison to the restoration God pours out upon them in the Millennial Kingdom.

He Loves to Restore Broken Lives

God is a God of restoration. He loves to restore broken lives. All that the locust has eaten, God is able to restore over and above all that we have wasted on sin.

A Bruised Reed

He is so gentle and loving, so kind and forgiving; come and receive that restoration to today when we call out in repentance and turn to Him. I know there are some, because I can feel the same many times, I know He forgives me, I am saved and heaven bound, but really we both know the truth, I am not what I should be. I’ve blown it too many times, all my second-chances have been used up. If a plant was left by the locust, it was bruised and half eaten through, but our God says a bruised reed He will not break the rest of the way, nor quench the smoldering wick that is ready to go out for good, but He will gently restore us, He will blow His breath, His Spirit over us, to strengthen us, and to reignite us. He is the God that fights for us, He is the God that came down for us, and He is the God that will restore us.

Matthew 12:20–21 (NKJV) ²⁰ *A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;* ²¹ *And in His name Gentiles will trust.*”

Derek Redmond

DEREK Redmond was a runner on the British sprint team. He was running the four-by-four hundred relay with his teammates. At the onset of the race, his team was moving nicely along the track. Then came the baton handoff to Derek. His job was to bring it home. His last leg of the race should have brought his team and good ol’ England a gold medal. But as he turned the corner, he pulled an Achilles tendon and fell flat on his face. He lay there on the ground, in desperate pain. He didn’t want to be there, but he was in too much pain to get up. He began to crawl along the track. You could hear a pin drop, as all eyes focused on him trying to scratch his way forward. It was in the midst of this unfolding drama that a man came down from the stands, went over to the track, and picked up Derek Redmond. One of the judges said, “I am sorry, sir, you must leave the track.” The older gentleman waved his hand and said, “Leave me alone, this is my boy.” Derek Redmond’s father left the stands from on high and came down where Derek Redmond had fallen down to the dust, the dirt of defeat. He picked him up and put him on over his shoulder. He put his arms around his son’s waist and helped him cross the

finish line. The crowd stood up in applause. Derek Redmond and his father got more applause than the runners who didn't fall at all. The people who never fell didn't need help from their daddy. The people who never fell never needed help. They were sufficient to make it on their own. Today, there is someone in the stands who sits up high, who is willing to come down, pick you up, and let you put your arm around His shoulder. He'll put His arm around your waist, and He'll drag you across the finish line. You can still come across the line, a winner, for the glory of God, by relying on Him to carry you through.

The Picture and Promise / Don't live in the Former Years

The story, and this passage is a picture and a promise of what God can and will do for you and for me. Israel missed the Messiah the first time, but when they see Him on the "Day of the Lord", the devastation will pale in comparison to the restoration. So too is His promise to you and to me, regardless of where we have been and what we have done. I can restore the latter years of your marriage regardless of how you may have misspent the former years; I will do the same for your children who walked away from Me. I will do the same for you personally He says! Christian don't live in the former years, don't count yourself out of His great blessing because of the things you are now ashamed of (whether that was before you gave your life to Him, or in many cases things you did after you professed Him as Lord). Satan will whisper, or you may hear the whispers of fellow believers, how can they think they can be forgiven, don't they remember what they had done. Don't live back there, but live in the year of restoration, and that is "today".

Listen – God is Holy – God is Awesome in Love

Listen I know I preach and teach holiness of God, but don't confuse that by any way that I am not preaching that God is all too ready to forgive and restore. He loves repairing broken lives, He is the ultimate body shop, taking what was once wrecked or rusted, and turning it into a pure classic.

John 8:10-11 (NKJV) 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Chapter 3 (Hebrew Bible)

Joel 2:28-32

Why this Book Now

Why did I choose to go to the Book of Joel after the completion of our study in 1 Corinthians, well simple because the Lord spoke to me to do so; but I can see why, as this Book is the perfect Book to step into after we studied that closing charge of Paul in 16:13-14, to watch, to stand, to act like men, and to be courageous. We were told to be watching out for tactics of Satan the roaring lion, and Jesus the Lion of Judah who will be returning soon. We are to watch for ourselves, and we are to be watching out for others so they will not be caught by Satan and be ready themselves for Jesus' soon return. So here Joel discusses that same thing, as he says "watch" and prepare for the "Day of the Lord", for ourselves and for others around us.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NKJV) 13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. 14 Let all that you do be done with love.

Words say Get Ready – Day of the Lord

The Book is loaded with words such as, hear, awake, blow the trumpet, sound the alarm, proclaim, and prepare – all in the context of “The Day of the Lord”.

The Day of the Lord

The Day of the Lord is a period (not just one day), and it is the period that spans from the Tribulation through the end Millennial Kingdom. It is when God intervenes directly in the affairs of humanity. We read the severity of His dealing with a Christ rejecting world in Revelation chapters 6-19, and His righteous reign on earth in Revelation 20. So severe will be His hand and judgment during the Tribulation period, people will wish they would die, but they will not.

Revelation 6:12-17 (NKJV) ¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Called out 5 Times

The Day of the Lord is called out five times in this three chapter Book, and just reading those five verses should awake us all, perk up our ears, pierce our hearts, grab the trumpet, sound the alarm, to proclaim and prepare for His coming.

*Joel 1:15 (NKJV) ⁵ Alas for the day! **For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.***

*Joel 2:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. **For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?***

*Joel 2:31 (NKJV) ³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, **Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.***

*Joel 3:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! **For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.***

*Joel 3:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ **And it will come to pass in that day** That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD And water the Valley of Acacias.*

Outline of the Book of Joel:

1. Day of the Lord - Pictured Painfully (Chp 1) - Yesterday
2. Day of the Lord - Prophesied Powerfully (Chp 2) - Today
3. Day of the Lord - Proclaimed as Promised (Chp 3) - Tomorrow

Purpose

So, the prophet's purpose was to warn the nation to repent in the light of approaching judgment, as well as to stir up the faithful among the people to believe the promises of God involving coming salvation and the destruction of the enemies of God's kingdom.

Passage so Powerful – Own Chapter

This passage is so powerful, that in the Hebrew Bible, Joel 2:28-32 is chapter three, and our chapter English chapter 3 is their chapter 4. The Hebrew scribes considered these five verses so sacred, so vital, that they were their own chapter, and the reason being was that they are the passage on salvation and the outpouring of God's Spirit unto man.

Chapters 1-2 / Why we need this Power

You see, chapters one and two speak of this dreadful and terrible day that is coming not only upon the land, but also upon all who reject Him as King. It will be dreadful, and God is poking and piercing the hearts of His Holy priesthood (that is all who believe in Him) to blow the trumpet and sound the alarm, and to tell the world – Awake, for the Day of the Lord is near. And there is no way we can do that in our own strength and power, we need His empowering from above, through His Holy Spirit, to do it!

Joel 2:28 “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

Joel 2:29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Joel 2:30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

Joel 2:31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, **Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.**

Joel 2:32 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Peter Quotes This

Peter quotes this and unlocks much of the meaning for us. Peter has revealed to us that this prophecy (verses 28-29) is not limited to only the Jews, but to all who believe, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is immediately available to all who believe. And the apostle John tells us in the Book of Revelation that verses 30-32, now they will not come into full fulfillment until the Tribulation Period, it will be then that the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon to blood. Prophecy is not in full fulfillment. This prophecy will have full fulfillment in the Tribulation Period.

Acts 2:14–24 (NKJV) ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of

the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ²¹ And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. ²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Revelation 6:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind.

Joel 2:32 is John 3:16 / Outpouring of Spirit and Salvation

Verse 32 – that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved - Joel 2:32, is the OT version of John 3:16. Peter in Acts is referring them back not only to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but also the outpouring of the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, the Meshach, the Messiah.

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

No Distinction

Notice, there is no distinction race or nationality (all flesh), no distinction between gender (son & daughters), no distinction between age (old men and young men), no distinction between social class (men servants and woman servants), it declares “everyone” who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved, and will have the Spirit of God poured out upon them. *For God so love the “world”*

John 1:12

In John 1:12 it says ‘to them He has given the right’. There is power in that word “right”. The word is a judicial word, as it was used in the legal system, and meant this is your legal right, there is a judicial authority in the universe that any man, woman, or child can receive Him as Lord and Savior. No one or nothing can throw or past in our face and say you have gone too far, you cannot be received nor forgive for the things you have done, God has established a law of the universe that says that anyone who come to Him can be forgiven. The word also means you have authority to hold the Son up and say, I claim Him as my Savior; and the word means “power”, and God says you have the power to do this, he gives You the power to do this, you are not bound by your past or present sin. Because whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

John 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

Believe Means

What does the word “believe” mean; well let me save you 4 years of seminary, and countless debates, believe means to recognize, repent, and receive. Recognize that you are a sinner and are separated from God because of your sin. Repent (change your mind about your sin, and change your direction from following after it), for no man can come before the Holy God unless the repent (turn away) from their sin. Receive, ask God with your mouth, to forgive you of your sin, tell Him you want to turn from your sin (and ask Him to help you do that), and ask Him to come into your life and life within you.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Acts 3:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

It is All Three

And it is all three to be saved. A person must recognize and repent in order to receive, as many say I recognize, but no need to repent for God understands my fragility. God has given you the authority and power to repent. Some say they have received Him, but there is nothing to repent of because they are a good person, they are not sinners, and to that God says "all have sinned and fall short of His glory".

John 3:16

John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life*, is exactly 25 words, and those words determine eternity, the word that is "dead center" of those words is "Son". The Son is the center of salvation, and thereafter He is to be the center of our lives. Just as Jesus is the center of the greatest verse in all Scripture, He must be central in our hearts and lives if they are to have meaning, purpose, and impact

Why has God saved You

Why has God saved you – because He is deeply in love with you and desires to have an intimate fellowship with you. Secondly, why has God poured out His Spirit upon you? What does he desire of you to do with this great power? Find out what it is my friend, and go do it, and do it now, because the days are short to do it in, that is the whole message of these three chapters for us who in the last, last days, which are immediate and imminent from this Day of the Lord we have been studying.

The Minimum – To be a Witness / Not go Witnessing – But Life Demonstration

I will tell you now the minimum God will tell you much more later when you get with Him to talk one-on-one about today's study, and that is this power is to be His witness. This witness is not just in Word, but in Deed, the whole essence of your being, every action in your life, a witness of God's salvation to you, and His Spirit in and upon you. Not that we are to go out witnessing (which we should), but all of our life is a demonstration of our relationship with Him, and He with us.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Can I ask You

Last week chapter one we saw dreadful things, locust swarms, famine and drought in the land, economic, environmental, and spiritual collapse in the land. It was a literal season that happened in Israel, and it is a picture of a yet future event that will happen upon the whole world, and we see it is dreadful, those times will be hell on earth. The culmination will happen in the Tribulation period, but we clearly see the foreshadows of this Great

and Dreadful day in our news headline every day; my question to you, how did last week study change your life? Did you seek the Lord and ask Him to check your priorities, did you seek the Lord and pray for your Nation, pray for Israel, pray for your lost loved ones, or did you say that was a bummer of a Bible study? God's heart in every study is to grab your heart, that the Word will change you, stir you up, fire you up, and conform you into His image. God through His word wants to break our hearts of the things that break His heart. Like God did with Abraham, so He does with us, He gives us information of what He is going to do, so we will get involved in His plan – which may require us to depart from our plans, our goals, our desires.

Genesis 18:16–17 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. ¹⁷ And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,

May the Fire Burn – We need His Power Desperately

May the fire of God, burn within your heart, may you see why this passage is tucked here between chapters two and three, because we so desperately need this power for the days that we live in, for I believe most definitely that we are living in the last-last days.

Sadly the Jews Missed it on Pentecost

Sadly, this salvation and power were made available 2,000 years ago, and most all of Israel missed it. Peter on Pentecost is telling the Jews, what you are seeing is what was meant for you, for all of you, but most of you are totally missing it. Pentecost is one of the seven Jewish Feasts, and it was one of the three that were mandatory for all Jewish males to attend (Passover and Tabernacles). On the day of Pentecost it is estimated that may have been upwards of 2 million Jews in the city that day, yet only 3,000 were baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2; so 1,997,000 were not filled that day!

Acts 2:38–41 (NKJV) ³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call. " ⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.

Promise is both Nationally and Personally / Israel missed It – How about You

This promise is both nationally, and personally. Israel did not seize what God intended to give them because of unbelief. How about you, how about me, do we do the same? How do we receive the Holy Spirit, simply by asking. For salvation and the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:9–13 (NKJV) ⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Do you see why we Need It? / PRAYER

But, do you see the need of why you must ask? Oh Father in heaven, how desperately we need this power, this baptism, for we see the desperate days that we live in, and we see they are still just foreshadows of things to come, we ask of You, fill us, overflow, and then may we witness for You with all of our very being. In Your Name we ask and pray this.

Chapter 3 (English Bible)

Judgment of Nations

Chapter 3 brings us to what is known as the judgment of Nations. It could literally be talking about the Battle of Armageddon or Matthew 25 the separating the sheep from the goats. I believe this chapter three actually speaks of both, as His judgment will begin against those nations at Armageddon, and then be complete at the judging of the nations as spoken of in Matthew 25. Thus, whether this passage refers to the battle of Armageddon or to the judgment of Matthew 25, the enemies of God's people will be judged very definitely.

Armageddon

The battle of Armageddon. We know that this brutal, bloody battle in which all of the nations of the world will converge in Israel will be in the valley of Megiddo. This valley is approximately two hundred miles in length and one hundred miles wide—enough for the nations of the world to converge in battle. But suddenly, when things look hopeless for Israel, Jesus will appear.

Revelation 19:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ *And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.*

Matthew 25

In Matthew 25, we read that at the end of the Tribulation, when the seven-year period of judgment is over and before the world is ushered into the 1,000 years of peace in the Millennium, God will call all of the nation's together to judge them. In the Valley of Jehoshaphat, or the Kidron Valley, the Lord will determine which people will be allowed to go into the Millennium. What will be the measure? How they treated the Jews in the day of Tribulation. Those who cared for them, stood by them, and watched over them will be allowed to come into the kingdom. Those who ignored them, who didn't care about them, will be cast into hell itself. Why will that be the criterion? Because when the Jews recognize Jesus as their Messiah midway through the Tribulation, antichrist will wage war against them. Therefore, any nation or individual who stands with them places his own life in jeopardy for the cause of Christ.

Matthew 25:31-33 (NKJV) ³¹ *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.*

Joel 3:1 “For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

Last Days

Verse 1 - For behold, in those days and at that time – In those days and at that time is referring to the Last Days.

People Mocked at this Verse

Verse 1 - When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem – People mocked at this verse for 2,000 years, they said no way will this ever happen, but on May 14th 1948 we seen the Nation Israel made a sovereign Nation again, and year after year we are still

seeing Jewish people returning to the land, just like Joel said they would, and just as the prophet Ezekiel said it would be so in Ezekiel chapters 36-37.

You are Brought & Bought back from Captivity

What do we gather from chapters one and two (and the readers at the present writing)? A reminding of the past and a revealing of the future that we might be renewed in the present. For us, this passage tells us that if we review what God has done for us in the past and anticipate what He will do for us in the future, we'll have peace in the present. When you remember the glorious things God has done for you in past days and you remember that you're going to be in heaven with Him soon, you will have a tranquility, a stability, and a peace in your life presently.

Verses 2-21 / Why God will Judge the Nations

The Lord is going to judge the nations for at least six reasons:

1. For scattering Israel and the Jewish people among the nations (Joel 3:2)
2. For dividing up the land of Israel, which the Lord describes as "My land" (3:2)
3. For selling the Jewish people into slavery (3:3,5)
4. For engaging in sex trafficking (3:3)
5. For stealing treasures from the Lord (perhaps from the Temple), and from Israel (3:5)
6. For murdering Jews and shedding Jewish blood (3:19, 21)

1-- For scattering Israel and the Jewish people among the nations (Joel 3:2)

2 -- For dividing up the land of Israel, which the Lord describes as "My land" (3:2)

Joel 3:2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

Valley

Valley Jehoshaphat – is valley outside of Jerusalem called the Kidron Valley.

Be warned Nations

Consider these words carefully and completely....and let the United Nations be warned....let the United States be warned....let the European Union be warned....let the Arab League be warned....let the Palestinian Authority be warned....let Hamas be warned....let the Government of Israel, too, be warned. It may look like a brilliant idea to divide the City of Jerusalem....to divide Judea and Samaria – a.k.a., the West Bank – away from the State of Israel....to give away the Golan Heights....as it seemed brilliant to some to give away the Gaza Strip in 2005....but let there be no mistake: the Word of God warns us in no uncertain terms that judgment is coming for all who divide Israel....and divide Jerusalem....and scatter, oppress and mistreat the Jewish people.

Genesis 12

Genesis 12:1-3 tells us that the Lord will bless those who bless the children of Abraham, and He will curse those who curse the children of Abraham. Those who have cursed Israel have, sadly, found themselves facing great pain and suffering. Those who have tried to divide the Land again and again have found themselves both causing but also experiencing great pain and suffering.

Genesis 12:1-3 (NKJV) ¹ Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Why Not Absorbed

Why don't the other nations who say they are so concerned about the Palestinian people living in the land, prove it with their actions? Do you know that the Middle-East countries (some of the richest in the world) only supply 20% of the aid to these people? 80 percent comes from the Western Nations, the US being number one, even though they say the USA is evil. There are 1.5 billion Muslims in the world, the largest majority living right in that region, why don't they absorb their brothers and sisters (5 million) into their country? The reason, they want the tension in that land, they want to see the conflict, because they do not want to see Israel have the land, nor even exist. If they can get the world to help them get half the land by politics, then it will be easier to take the other half by force when the time is right. The world is blinded to this issue, or probably just doesn't care, and whatever the case, God sees who blesses Israel, and who doesn't.

Change the Course

During the 1990's in an NCAA Division II national championship cross-country race in California, a bizarre twist of events took place. Mike Delcavo and 127 of the best runners in the country were battling for glory over the 10,000 meter course. About three miles into the race, Delcavo was somewhere in the middle of the pack, when he realized that the runners had made a wrong turn. So he yelled out, "You're going the wrong way," but they didn't listen. Only 4 others followed Mike when he turned in the right direction...and suddenly, he found himself in the lead. However that lasted only about a mile, since Mike and the runners who followed him soon reunited with the larger pack who, having gone the wrong way, actually shaved about a half a mile off the course, and were now in the lead again. The final blow came when, because so many of the runners had gone the wrong way, the officials changed the official course route to accommodate their error. So when Mike Delcavo finally crossed the finish line, he was number 103 overall. At the end of the race, some of Delcavo's competitors "thought it was funny that he went the right way." In our mixed up world, when everybody is wrong, then wrong becomes right. However, in the world to come there is only one Judge and He will not change the correct course regardless of how many or how few actually run it. His rewards will be based on our having stayed the true course.

3 -- For selling the Jewish people into slavery (3:3,5)

4 -- For engaging in sex trafficking (3:3)

Joel 3:3 They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy as payment for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

Israel abused – Egypt, Babylon, Hitler, Tribulation

The people of Israel have been used and abused in terms of sex trafficking since the times of slavery in Egypt, the Babylonian captivity, and Hitler's Germany. It appears this ugliness will surface again during the Tribulation, and God will hold all accountable for doing so.

40% Pornography

Just a note on that subject for us today in the USA, anyone cruising pornography, did you know that 40 percent of all pornography is related to sex trafficking in some way or another. Either the mafia behind it is using their pornography to grow their sex trafficking or the actual photos and videos are girls and boys who have been forced into sex trafficking. So, anyone who is clicking and checking, you are a promoter of this nightmare.

2008, the United Nations estimated nearly 2.5 million people from 127 different countries are being trafficked into 137 countries around the world. – Wikipedia website

Laurel and Baltimore

I believe Laurel Maryland may be a corridor for sex trafficking. We should go find out. We should go up to Baltimore city and see if any runaways want to go home, and put them on a bus and do it. We have the money, what are saving it for. Maybe you say I want to help but I don't think I am a feet on the grounds person for this one, that environment makes me uncomfortable. Well, how are you with kids, maybe you can babysit my son while me and the wife go.

Joel 3:4 “Indeed, what have you to do with Me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia? Will you retaliate against Me? But if you retaliate against Me, Swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head;

Gaza Strip / But all will be Judged / Is USA still a Friend?

Tyre and Sidon is Lebanon. Philistia is up there around the Gaza strip. But let it be known, that all the nations will be coming down to be judged. And God is saying, and no one can withstand Me when my judgment comes. Oh let the nations be warned who come against Israel in any way. Is the USA still the friend of Israel, I tremble and shutter at what I read in our dealings with them today.

5 -- For stealing treasures from the Lord (perhaps from the Temple), and from Israel (3:5)

Joel 3:5 Because you have taken My silver and My gold, And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.

They Plunder

God will judge for the plundering of the land over the years and during the Tribulation period.

Joel 3:6 Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem You have sold to the Greeks, That you may remove them far from their borders.

Joel 3:7 “Behold, I will raise them Out of the place to which you have sold them, And will return your retaliation upon your own head.

Joel 3:8 I will sell your sons and your daughters Into the hand of the people of Judah, And they will sell them to the Sabeans, To a people far off; For the LORD has spoken.”

Joel 3:9 Proclaim this among the nations: “Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up.

Joel 3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’ ”

The Volcanoes

Mount Pinatubo, dormant for over 500 years, began to erupt on June 12, 1991, and three days later exploded with twice the power of the 1980 Mount St. Helen's eruption. The release of power blasted a cubic mile off the mountaintop and the earth shook for eight hours. The eruption produced an ash cloud that rose over 50,000 feet into the atmosphere. If that wasn't enough, Typhoon Yunga then struck the island nation with fierce winds and torrential rains which mixed with the ash creating what the locals called "Black Saturday!" The United States was forced to abandon and eventually close Clark Air Force base, located just a few miles from Mount Pinatubo, due to the devastating blanket of fallen ash. When a volcanologist was asked to account for the widespread damage which sent thousands of American soldiers and Filipinos fleeing, he replied, "When a volcano is silent for many years, people forget it's a volcano and begin to treat it like a mountain."

Joel 3:11 Assemble and come, all you nations, And gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD.

Joel 3:12 “Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

Joel 3:13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; For the winepress is full, The vats overflow— For their wickedness is great.”

Revelation 14

Verse 13 - Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe - In Revelation 14, we see this “putting in of the sickle” in relationship to the battle of Armageddon. What a dreadful site.

Revelation 14:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. ¹⁵ And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, “Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.” ¹⁶ So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped.

Isaiah 2

In Isaiah 2:4, we read that in the Millennium, swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks because peace will render them obsolete. Here, however, the

Lord says just the opposite. In the Tribulation period, He'll say, "If you have plows, make them into swords. If you have pruning hooks, sharpen them for spears because war is coming."

Isaiah 2:4 (NKJV) ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

The Atrocities against Israel in Tribulation

Here are some of these are atrocities that will be committed against Israel and the Jewish people during the "time of Jacob's troubles" (Jeremiah 30:7), also known as the Tribulation. God will come with a vengeance because of them!

- The Bible teaches us, for example, from the Book of Daniel that the Antichrist will invade the Beautiful Land and set up his reign of power here in Israel. (Daniel 11:41-45)
- The Hebrew Prophet Zechariah tells us that under the reign of the Antichrist and his global, one-world, tyrannical government that two-thirds of the Jewish people will be murdered. (Zechariah 13:8-9)
- As horrifying as this is, Jews will not be the only ones to suffer terribly during under the Antichrist's global reign of terror. Anyone who resists the Antichrist will suffer. Many will perish. Indeed, the Bible reveals that this includes people who have become followers of Jesus Christ during the Tribulation and refuse to bow to the Antichrist. They will be beheaded. They will be martyred. En masse. [Read Revelation 6:9-11 – how long, O Lord, until you avenge....]

Day of Reckoning is Coming

Joel tells us a day of reckoning is coming....the Day of the Lord is coming....surely it is near.

- "I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged, for the Lord dwells in Zion." (Joel 3:21)
- Psalm 9:11-12 – "Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion; declare among the peoples His deeds. For He who requires (or avenges) blood remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the afflicted."

Joel 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Joel 3:15 The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness.

I take no Pleasure in Judgment

I take absolutely no pleasure in seeing the judgment of the nations. I take no pleasure in knowing that nations and people will be destroyed. I did not celebrate at the pictures of Momar Gahdafi being dragged through the streets. I actually had sorrow when I saw the picture of Sadaam being led to being hanged. And I like most if not all, wanted to find BinLaden, I wanted to see justice, and when the day finally came, I felt a hollow victory. I was glad to know that a terrorist mastermind was eliminated from plotting against us, but felt no joy in the killing.

This Judgment may be USA

This judgment that we read about could be against the USA. Consider this, if the rapture happens today, and the Tribulation period begins tomorrow, people you and I know may be the very people we are reading about. Who do you know right now that you feel will miss the rapture because they have not received Jesus Christ? And now picture in your mind, this is what they will be facing, the wrath of God.

How do we Prepare

The Hebrew Prophet Joel indicates a day of severe and unprecedented judgment is coming upon the world. The question is: How should mankind in general – and the people of Israel in particular – prepare for such judgments before they come? Beginning in Joel 2:12, the Lord is very clear and specific. His people are to:

- Blow a trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm on His holy mountain in Jerusalem
- Consecrate a fast
- Proclaim a solemn assembly
- Gather the people
- Sanctify the congregation
- Assemble the elders
- Gather the children and the nursing infants
- Gather brides and bridegrooms
- Urge the priests, the Lord's ministers, to weep and ask the Lord to spare His people and not let them be a byword among the nations
- Return to the Lord with all our heart
- Return to the Lord with fasting
- Return to the Lord with weeping
- Return to the Lord with mourning
- Rend our hearts and not our garments
- Return to the Lord because we believe He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in loving-kindness and relenting of evil
- This is not just a call to a generic, run-of-the-mill prayer meeting — this is a call to get on our faces and beg and plead with the Lord to have mercy on us as individuals, as families and as nations

Joel 2:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² “Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” ¹³ So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Joel 3:16 The LORD also will roar from Zion, And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

Joel 3:17 “So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again.”

Joel 3:18 And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD And water the Valley of Acacias.

Israel the Land

Israel the land is the:

- Is the Geographical Center of the Earth (Ezekiel 5:5)
- It is the Salvation Center of Humanity (John 19:17)
- It is the Prophetic Center (God's Timepiece) – (Zechariah 12:1-3)

Ezekiel 5:5 (NKJV) ⁵ "Thus says the Lord GOD: 'This is Jerusalem; I have set her in the midst of the nations and the countries all around her.

John 19:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,

Zechariah 12:1-3 (KJV) ¹The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. ²Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. ³And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

Jerusalem is God's Glory Center

Jerusalem is the Glory Center of God, and one day He will reign from there, and we will reign with Him.

6-- For murdering Jews and shedding Jewish blood (3:19, 21)

Joel 3:19 "Egypt shall be a desolation, And Edom a desolate wilderness, Because of violence against the people of Judah, For they have shed innocent blood in their land.

No More troubling Israel

The Egyptians and the Edomites were two peoples who constantly troubled the Jews. I believe this is also very general statement of, all who troubled Israel, will no longer do so.

Joel 3:20 But Judah shall abide forever, And Jerusalem from generation to generation.

Joel 3:21 For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; For the LORD dwells in Zion.

Good New

And then comes more good news – the Millennial Kingdom....during this time:

1. The Lord will make Jerusalem holy and pure.....there will be no "strangers" there, Joel tells us in 3:17....only those who have been born again and made righteous by the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross for the remission of sins....only those who have been adopted into His family by receiving Jesus as the Messiah
2. The mountains of Israel will drip with sweet wine (3:18)
3. The mountains of Israel will nourish cattle who flow with milk (3:18)
4. The land of Judah will always flow with springs of water (3:18)
5. A spring will actually burst forth underneath the Temple and flow into a river down to the Dead Sea, which will be resurrected (3:18 – see also Ezekiel 47)
6. Israel/Judah/Jerusalem will be inhabited forever (3:20)

7. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself will dwell in Zion (3:21)

There is great Hope

The Hebrew Prophet Joel gives us a great hope...that God is sovereign and He will reign from this city and make all things new and beautiful by His grace and power.

But Until Then

But until that Day comes, God has given us this word in order to awaken us, to prepare us, to reset our priorities, to ready ourselves and to ready others.